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TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA PRIORITY

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MONTREAL FOR USREP TO ICAO

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PREL, RW, BE

SUBJECT: WORKING WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF BELGIUM ON RWANDA

REF: A) BRUSSELS 4736 B) STATE 111391

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT. SEE PARAGRAPH 3 FOR  
ACTION REQUEST FOR BRUSSELS.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER  
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(D)  
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 3 MAY 2016  
DATE/CASE ID: 06 MAY 2011 201005065

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FOR EMBASSY'S INFORMATION, USG PRIORITIES AT PRESENT ARE STOPPING THE MASSACRES AND WORKING TOWARD A CEASEFIRE; MEETINGS WITH GOR INTERLOCUTORS FOCUS PRIMARILY ON THOSE GOALS AS THE MOST URGENT SHORT-TERM NEEDS. IN NO WAY SHOULD U.S. MEETINGS WITH GOR OFFICIALS BE TAKEN AS CONDONING RWANDAN SLANDERS AGAINST THE GOB. A/S MOOSE WILL MEET MAY 3 WITH BELGIAN AMBASSADOR CASSIERS (AND FRENCH AMBASSADOR ANDREANT) TO INSURE THAT OUR PROSPECTIVE POLICIES TOWARD RWANDA AND BURUNDI REMAIN IN SYNC.

3. ACTION REQUEST: PLEASE SHARE THE FOLLOWING POINTS WITH APPROPRIATE GOB INTERLOCUTORS:

-- WE SHARE YOUR ANGER AT THE FALSE AND SCURRILOUS  
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STATEMENTS MADE BY CERTAIN RWANDAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WITH REGARD TO BELGIAN INVOLVEMENT IN THE DOWNING OF PRESIDENT HABYARIMANA'S AIRCRAFT.

-- WE SUPPORT AN INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION OF THE SHOOTING DOWN OF THE PLANE. IF IT IS DETERMINED THAT THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION IS THE COMPETENT FORUM FOR THIS INQUIRY, WE WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR IT TO TAKE PLACE IN THAT BODY. (FYI: ICAO CAN DEAL ONLY WITH MATTERS CONCERNING CIVIL AIRCRAFT, NOT STATE AIRCRAFT. IT IS NOT YET CLEAR WHETHER THE PRESIDENT'S PLANE WAS A "CIVIL AIRCRAFT", THUS ICAO MAY OR MAY NOT HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT THE INQUIRY.)

-- SHOULD RWANDAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS MAKE STATEMENTS IN INTERNATIONAL FORA ACCUSING THE BELGIAN UNAMIR CONTINGENT OF INVOLVEMENT IN THE AIRCRAFT SHOOTDOWN, USG REPRESENTATIVES WILL DENOUNCE THEM.

-- IN THE SAME SPIRIT, WE SUPPORT INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIONS OF THE MASSACRES WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN RWANDA.

-- BELGIUM'S ROLE IN PROVIDING HUMANITARIAN AID AND

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DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TO RWANDA HAS BEEN A MAJOR ONE.  
THE EFFORTS OF BELGIAN AID WORKERS, WHICH HAVE CONTINUED  
EVEN THROUGH THIS CRISIS, SHOW AN IMPRESSIVE DEDICATION TO  
ALLEVIATING THE SUFFERING OF THE REGION.

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-- IN VIEW OF THIS, AND OF THE CONTINUING COMMITMENT  
BELGIUM MAINTAINS TO CENTRAL AFRICA. WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO  
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CONTINUE TO WORK WITH US AND WITH OTHER CONCERNED  
GOVERNMENTS TO HALT THE KILLING, PROMOTE A CEASEFIRE AND  
RETURN TO THE QUEST FOR A POLITICAL SOLUTION.

4.   BUJUMBURA MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.    TALBOTT

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